FOWLS DURING MOULTING SEASON SHOULD BE GIVEN EXTRA CARE

Laying Generally Ceases When They Are Losing Their Feathers; Danger in Feeding Too Heavily.

Oil Meal and Beef Scraps May be Used to Improve the Condition of the Birds.

BY A. C. SMITH
Head of the Department of Poultry Husbandry, University of Minnesota.

During the moulting season the rations of the fowls should contain material that will enable them quickly to form their new feathers and at the same time build up constitutional vigor, so that egg production may not be delayed too long. In this article Professor Smith gives suggestions for the care of poultry during this critical period.

Zealous endeavor to prolong the laying season is often responsible for constitutional weakness and curtailed production of eggs in winter. Correct care of the laying fowls during the moulting period will go far toward insuring profitable laying in the second year.

The moulting period is much longer than most amateurs suppose, as the first stage is likely to pass unnoticed. It is a gradual process and starts slowly. At first, a few of the larger feathers drop out, one or two at a time, but as the season advances the moult becomes more rapid.

While the fowls are in light moult, the hens probably will continue to lay, but laying generally ceases when heavy moulting begins. This is when the hen drops the mass of small or body feathers. Prolonging the laying period not only retards the moulting period, but it also is likely to result in loss of strength and vigor.

MOULT LASTS THREE MONTHS.

Ordinarily the moult begins in midsummer and continues, from first to last about three months, although the noticeable moult may not last longer than six weeks. A hen that begins to moult in July should be newly fledged in October. If the moult is delayed the fowls affected will be exposed to considerable inclement weather without natural protection, and unless unusually comfortable quarters are provided they are almost certain to suffer from disease from such exposure.

Late moulting nearly always is the result of a desire to get the largest returns at the moment, even at the expense of the future. But is a late moult economical? True, eggs in summer bring an attractive price—much more than during the spring, yet not as much as during winter. All recognize that it is more difficult to make hens lay during winter than to make pullets yield a large supply, and for that reason most of the old flock are disposed of just before the period of heavy or rapid moult. The few that are not sold are usually selected birds and held for next season's breeders, for which use they are naturally admirably adapted.

The moulting period should be a period of rest for the reproductive organs, and it will be when the fowls are not forced either at its beginning or completion. Under such conditions and with proper care, hens usually will begin to lay in February. The eggs also will be large, perfectly formed and with good shells. The fertility, hatchability and strength of the chicks will be all that one can expect or desire.

EARLY MOULTING DESIRABLE.

When a large flock of hens are kept over, an early moult will, of course, be of advantage because early winter laying is possible only when accompanied by early moulting. This means a late summer or early fall moult, which is natural with pullets that were hatched fairly early and that have been kept laying.

For birds hatched later and those that for any reason moult in July, a forced moult is sometimes employed, the hen being made to begin her moult earlier than she would naturally. This may be effected in several ways, some of which are more rapid than others. The advisability of this expedient has often been questioned. Many maintain that it is harmful, and authentic records seem to prove that while the next laying period may be advanced, the egg yield for the year usually is considerably diminished. This might be expected, inasmuch as the rest period is shortened by high feeding. The higher price received for eggs compensates in part, however, for the reduced yield. Whether or not this is a harmful practice, depends considerably upon the rapidity of the moult.

The theory of forced moulting is that by reducing flesh sufficiently, the feathers become dead and loosen, and, therefore, drop out more quickly; then by feeding liberally, new feathers are grown rapidly, the body built up, and a laying condition restored.

SECURING A FORCED MOULT.

The most radical method practiced consists of confining the hen and feeding her from one-quarter to one-half of what she would ordinarily require. Even this limited ration consists of the foods least fattening, such as oats and wheat bran.

Both males and females moult earlier if they have been confined for considerable time. Fanciers who want to exhibit at the fall and early winter shows make use of this fact to assist them in getting candidates for these honors in fresh, new plumage.

The production of both feathers and eggs require much the same kind of nourishment; which is perhaps the real explanation of why hens in heavy moult seldom lay. If a ration sufficiently rich to form both feathers and eggs rapidly was provided, the digestive machinery would soon collapse and neither feathers nor eggs would be formed. Thus, whether the hen forms feathers or eggs, she must be supplied with a small but appreciable amount of mineral matter and a liberal supply of protein, because feathers are found to contain both mineral matter and protein. It then becomes apparent that feathers and eggs are not so different in composition as form and appearance would lead one to believe.

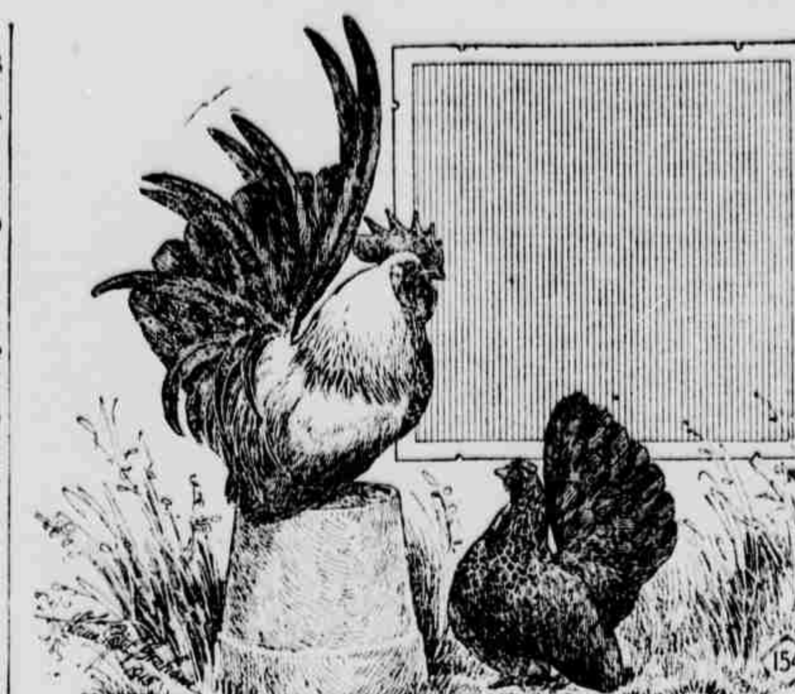
CONDITION OF THE SKIN.

A soft, oily skin is favorable to a rapid and healthy growth of feathers and hens or other animals may be fed to promote such a condition. To secure this, a liberal supply of such fat-containing foods as beef scraps, oil meat, etc., are often included in rations for moulting hens.

Oil meal is not especially palatable and should be used sparingly, possibly one part in 16 or 20 dry mash as commonly compounded. With the light and active breeds beef scraps may be fed in hoppers, thereby effecting a saving, as fowls soon get a sufficient quantity and are not continually picking over the dry mash for bits of this animal food, wasting grain to save scraps. When mixed in mash, 15 per cent. is a fair proportion.

To those who would take advantage of forced moults, a word of caution is due. Do not reduce rations abruptly. Furthermore, do not reduce them to the extent that the fowl's constitution is impaired. Rather depend upon confinement and a selection of feeds that have little forcing or fattening tendencies. This would mean the elimination of food especially rich in either fats or protein; for example, beef scraps, corn, oil meal, etc. Select those that in themselves form more nearly a maintenance ration; such as oats, with wheat bran, and sufficient green foods, always available during the moulting season. Give enough of these to maintain health, with the assistance of free access to the grit and shell hoppers.

The general welfare of the birds should be looked after. Males should be excluded from the pens. As the hens are timid and tender while the new feathers are growing, fowls in moult should not be caught. They should be placed in a building which has been recently thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a mite exterminator and should be thoroughly rid of body lice before moulting begins.



(Copyright, 1915)

Gray Japanese Bantams

When the Japanese bantams were first introduced into England, and thence into America, the only varieties were white, black and black-tailed white. English fanciers developed the attractive Gray Japanese Bantams, shown above. In color they are like the Birchen Gray Bantams.

The male has a silvery white neck-hackle, saddle hackle and top of wing. The balance of his plumage is lustrous greenish black, except the breast, each feather of which is laced or edged with silvery white. The female is intense black in all sections except the neck and upper part of breast, each feather of this section being edged with white.

They have legs only about an inch and a half length, and the wings are carried drooping almost to the ground. The tail is very long and stands up along the back and past the top of the head.

These bantams may be kept successfully in limited quarters. They eat little and are easily cared for. The hens are good layers.

Gray Japanese Bantams should not exceed 20 to 22 ounces in weight for females or 22 to 26 ounces for males.

ADVICE TO TURKEY RAISERS.

(Continued.)

Mrs. Farwell, of whom an account was given last week, does not feed young poults until the heavy, baggy appearance disappears from the abdomen, as the turkey, like the duck, egg has a very large yolk in comparison to the size of the egg. The newly hatched poult is so heavy in its abdomen that it can scarcely walk without falling backwards, or in going forward waddling like a drunken person. Therefore, when it begins to walk naturally it is time to feed it, and not before.

She estimates her annual loss of young poults at about 10 per cent., and the question of protection against hawks, crows, etc., is of particular interest just at this time. During her first year hawks and crows proved a great menace, but she soon found that when a dog was kept in the yard there was practically no danger from either hawks or crows molesting her poults. When the turkeys are on range, and she thinks they are wandering too far afield, the dog is sent after them. To make it easier to locate the flock, turkey bells are always placed on the necks of the old hens, and since establishing this rule she has never been troubled with hawks taking off the poults.

BELLING THE TURKEY HENS.

Mrs. Farwell has also found that hawks seldom, if ever, molest broods with capons wearing bells. The bells spoken of are turkey bells, and may be had with a neck strap from any of the best dealers in poultry supplies. In reply to queries whether there is any profit in keeping turkey hens to an advanced age, Mrs. Farwell writes that it is not the direct profit which counts with old hens. They are excellent mothers, and have learned, in her case, to come home when the dog so wills. Often the bark of a stray dog brings them home, as they have learned home is a refuge, and the only place for them when they hear a dog. But stray dogs, we are told, do almost as much damage in a flock of turkeys as they do with sheep. For those who have trouble in keeping their turkeys from flying over fences, her device will prove of much help. She buys a package of rings such as are used for ringing hogs' snouts to prevent them from rooting, and a tool to pinch them up which is also necessary. Then the method of procedure is as follows: Gather the long flight on the first joint of wing and half of the next joint. Get them even, so that the two outer feathers do not bind or pull, which causes irritation to the wing. Next pinch a ring tight around the bunch of feathers close to the edge of the wing. Gather up the remaining flights in two sections. The rings may be removed any time by the use of wire-cutters.

PLANTING EVERGREENS

How and When to Plant.

There has been discussion as to the best time to plant evergreens, many professionals contending that spring is the most satisfactory time. But late August is also preferred by many people, and is a safe month, as the roots are then allowed plenty of time to secure a hold on the soil before winter. When the trees to be transplanted arrive from the nursery, the greatest care should be taken that the roots are not exposed to the sun. As is generally known, the roots of evergreen trees are full of resin, and so dry up quickly with the slightest exposure to sun and air; the roots, therefore, should have as much soil as possible left around them, and be wrapped immediately in a wet canvas bag until ready for planting.

It should also be remembered that trees of the evergreen variety need much more moisture than the usual deciduous kind, as they are in leaf the whole year, and are thus giving out moisture through their leaves when other trees are resting. There must be plenty of water transmitted through the trunk and roots all year, and good drainage facilities are therefore, absolutely necessary.

HOW TO PLANT.

The simplest way to plant a hedge is to dig a trench some 3 1-2 feet deep and fully 6 feet wide, filling the first foot of space with tile or small stones, and perhaps a few ashes which allows the requisite space for drainage. Next put in with the top downward some mossy sod; and, after that, fill in with rich soil from the garden, mixed with one-quarter its quantity of well-rotted and thoroughly pulverized manure. It is best to set out young plants for a hedge not more than three feet high, as then they grow more successfully, and the young roots are more pliable and adaptable to their new home. In planting (set them about 2 1-2 feet apart), spread out the new roots horizontally, filling in carefully with the earth around the roots, and afterwards firming the soil on top to a hard surface. For single-tree planting, a hole four feet deep and six feet in diameter should be dug out and filled in as described above for the hedge. Certainly, no trees add greater distinction to a lawn if proper specimens are obtained than the many varieties of evergreen, and as tall hedges for ornament, or for use as shelter and windbreaks they are unexcelled.

When sheared into shape for hedge purposes, the handsomest of all the native evergreens is the hemlock (Tsuga Canadensis). It is very open, feathery, and stately, when allowed its natural growth, and standing alone, graceful, but vigorous, on a wide sweep of green lawn. As a single ornamental specimen of evergreen, noted for its beautiful deep-green foliage, silvery beneath, and contrasting admirably with the lighter-leaved specimens, the Nordmann's fir tree (Nordmanniana) is deservedly noted. It is a good grower, and much in demand for beautifying open spaces.

CAN SHE MAKE A CHERRY PIE?

Plant a Few Cherry Trees and Try It.

There is always the alternative of sending down to the corner grocery shop for a quart of sour cherries, but in that case the chances are that the rosy, juicy pie will never fully attain to the supreme delicacy it was intended to be. Thus the wiser plan is to grow cherries on the home grounds and in determining upon the right number of trees to plant figure upon 125 quarts for an average-sized family, and to produce this amount some six to eight trees will suffice.

Cherry trees differ in size and shape, and sweet cherry trees are as large or larger than apple trees, growing erect and straight in branch and trunk; the bark is reddish brown and peels off in strips around the trunk and limbs. Sour cherry trees, on the other hand, are much smaller, are apt to be low and spreading, irregular, and somewhat crooked. For those who prefer dwarf trees, they may be had in either of two ways: by proper pruning of standards or by negotiating with a reliable nursery. Only budded or grafted trees should be used, and it will be best to use only trees budded or grafted from bearing parents. Trees on native wild Mazzard roots are hardier than others, and for the North are the only satisfactory kind to plant. Where extreme hardiness is wanted orchardists recommend the use of Mozzard' or Morello roots, crown grafted, with six-inch scions, the young trees always being planted so that only the top bud of the scion on each is above ground.

LOCATION IMPORTANT.

Sour cherries, as a rule, do well wherever apples thrive. Sweet cherries, on the other hand, are apt to freeze north of southern Vermont and seldom bear further south than North Carolina, except where planted in a high altitude. In general, sour cherries prefer a low or flat country, while sweet cherries do better in high rolling sections. All cherries do well in almost any soil which is not too wet, but they prefer a light sandy loam. In applying fertilizer about the roots of sweet cherries avoid using nitrogen, as they are apt to grow too fast naturally in congenial surroundings. The following varieties are good—sweet sorts include:

Black Tartarian, black, early, sweet.
Coe's Transparent, amber, early, excellent.
Downer's, red, midseason, good.
Gov. Wood, amber, early, fine.
Lamberts, red, midseason, fine.
The sour sorts include:
Montmorency, red, midseason, fine.
Morello, red, late, rich.
May Duke, red, early, rich.
Reine Hortense, Red, early, fair.

HERE AND THERE AMONG THE FLOWERS.

Abutilons, Nasturtiums and Pansies.

Spraying roses encourages the starting and swelling of buds, which is one reason why this operation should be performed every evening. Grafted roses make great efforts to push new buds from the top of the base, and every shoot of this kind should be removed as soon as it appears. This is also the time to keep the hoe busy to prevent the cracks and fissures in the soil and the caking of the surface. When plants droop, water them freely, either in the early morning or in the evening.

For garden or greenhouse culture, abutilons may be as strongly recommended as any plant. They bloom every month of the year, and their culture is as simple as that of geraniums. Abutilon cuttings strike their roots very freely with a little bottom heat in winter and early spring, and in summer they are easily rooted in a closed frame. It is customary to root the cuttings early in the summer by placing them in pots in sheltered, shady, spots until the roots develop, and flowering them in five or six-inch pots, or planting them in the open ground. The pot-grown ones should be pinched back, which secures a bushy shape, while older plants are cut back almost to the ground when they have finished flowering, or, if large plants are wanted, they may be kept growing.

Nasturtiums do best in rather poor soil. A rich seed-bed encourages plant growth at the expense of flowers. In trimming lawn edges, cut along a tightly drawn garden line or the edge of a plank. In the case of an edge being damaged, repair it by cutting out a square-sided turf at the injured spot and replace the sod with the damaged side inward, and then fill in the cavity with good soil, and scatter some seed over it.

PANSIES AND HOW TO INCREASE THEM.

Lovers of pansies who are planning to increase their beds next season may do so now by taking cuttings or by dividing the clumps. Both of these methods are used where there happens to be a collection of choice sorts. For cuttings the best shots to use are those which push up from the centre of the plants in summer and early autumn. With care, these shoots may sometimes be removed from the parent plants, with a few roots attached. Soil suitable for cuttings should be composed of a mixture of light sandy loam, in the proportion of one part loam, one part leaf-mould, and one part coarse sand. Whichever sized pots are used, they should be half filled with drainage. Place the cuttings in the pots, and set them in a sheltered, semi-shaded spot, and keep the soil moist until the cuttings are well rooted. Then transplant to a larger pot, and as the weather grows colder put into a cold frame for the winter. Clump divisions may be treated in the same way. Larger pots, however, are required for this.

HOW TO EXTERMINATE THE HOUSE FLY.

Destroy Their Breeding Places.

There is no "cure-all" for flies, but where the housewife is willing to aid in their destruction, at least the number may be materially reduced. The first step is to prevent their breeding, and this takes us to their breeding places, the manure pile (perhaps their favorite resort), refuse pile, and in any other receptacle they can find where sufficient filth has accumulated to provide food for the maggots.

The use of strong chemicals in the manure has serious drawbacks in that the action of the chemicals has proved detrimental to the fertilizing value of the manure. But this, fortunately, is not true of powdered hellebore. The United States department of agriculture experiments have conclusively shown that hellebore is entirely decomposed in the course of fermentation of the manure, and that even when used in excessive quantities it does no harm except to the larvae it is intended to destroy. Even fowls scratching about and picking in the manure treated with it suffer no ill effects.

HOW TO USE HELLEBORE.

The way to use hellebore is to mix ½ pound with 10 gallons of water. This amount is sufficient to destroy the larvae in eight bushels or ten cubic feet of manure. Sprinkle the mixture, using a water-pot for convenience, over the pile and taking special care to cover the outer edges. Powdered hellebore costs about 11 cents per pound when purchased in 100 pound lots. This makes the cost of using it a bit under 7-10 of a cent per bushel of manure, and as the output of manure per horse is about two bushels per day, the amount of money involved is trifling in comparison with the benefits derived.

In places from which no manure is taken to spread on the land, borax may be used instead of hellebore at a considerable saving. The government experiments show that 0.62 pounds of borax to 8 bushels of refuse, manure, or any kind of filth will destroy the larvae. It should be borne in mind, however, that when used in larger quantities, or when the manure or refuse treated with it is spread on the land in larger amounts than 15 tons per acre some damage may result.

While the treating of manure and refuse heaps with preventives is a great help, one should go a step farther and do away with refuse around the place, especial care being used in and about the piggery and poultry yard. In and around the house the first step toward reducing the number of flies is to screen the doors and windows effectively, and then to "swat" every fly on sight, and if necessary to resort to the use of fly paper; it is surprising how quickly flies are destroyed when a vigilant outlook is kept on them. The fly is not only a nuisance to animals and human beings, but it spreads disease and filth as well as is a menace to health, and should not be tolerated especially when their extermination is such a simple matter.

SEEDING TO ALFALFA.

Preferred by Stock and Poultry to Any Other Forage Crops.

This is one of the best months for seeding to alfalfa, and as this valuable crop is difficult to get started, the thorough preparation of the soil is of vital importance. Alfalfa requires a deep, loamy soil well drained with a loose subsoil, as standing water soon kills the young plants. The manner of procedure is to provide good drainage; manure at the rate of twenty tons per acre; plough deeply, following with a subsoil plough and disking thoroughly, going over the piece both ways. The disking must continue at short intervals for at least two weeks, and longer where the season permits. The last week spread raw ground limestone at the rate of two tons per acre, or one and a half tons of agricultural lime or one ton of quicklime, working it in carefully with a smoothing harrow.

BACTERIA AND FERTILIZER.

In seeding a new piece of alfalfa it is necessary to inoculate the soil with alfalfa bacteria, either by broadcasting 150 pounds of soil from an alfalfa field or by inoculating the seed before planting with Farmogerm. Next apply a mixture of the following commercial fertilizer in the proportion of nitrate of soda 50 pounds, acid phosphate 350 pounds, and muriate of potash 100 pounds; lacking potash, use 700 pounds of unleached wood ashes. If a grain drill with a seeder attachment is used (adjust the spouts so as to deposit the seed in front of the hoes), drill in the fertilizer at the same time. The seed should be covered deeper than that of red clover; and, the sowing done, go over the piece with a roller. Alfalfa is characterized by its vigorous deep-growing tap root, which frequently reaches a depth of eight feet. The tap root grows without many secondary roots nearly to the end, where it divides into a few branched roots of about equal size. Thus the importance of a loose subsoil becomes evident, and on well-drained land the roots of healthy alfalfa plants penetrate a hard clay when not prevented by a permanent water-table.

The grower of alfalfa should know something of its habits of growth. The little seedlings send up a single stem, but as they grow older erect stems arise from the crown. Old plants develop from three to twelve stems; the underground portion of these stems elongate slightly and gradually the crown becomes branched. On these branches new stems and roots arise. Mowing the plant causes new stems to start, both from the crown and from the remaining portions of the clipped stems. The flower is purple and usually from six to a dozen blossoms are borne in a receme, which, as the flower matures, forms a headlike cluster.

In purchasing alfalfa seed examine carefully for dodder, which somewhat resembles a lima bean, only it is much smaller; it germinates in the soil, but the plant soon attaches itself by suckers to the alfalfa plant, and eventually kills it.

SUCCESS WON BY YOURSELF

"You Must Write Your Own Record, Build Your Own Monument or Dig Your Own Pit."

(By B. C. Forbes in the American.)

Your success depends upon you.

Your happiness depends upon you.

You have to steer your own course.

You have to shape your own fortune.

You have to educate yourself.

You have to do your own thinking.

You have to live with your own conscience.

Your mind is yours and can be used only by you.

You can share your real life with no other human being.

You come into the world alone.

You go to the grave alone.

ALONE WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.

You are alone with your inner thoughts during the journey between.

You must make your own decisions.

You must abide by the consequence of your acts.

"I cannot make you well unless you make yourself well" an eminent doctor recently told a patient in my hearing.

You alone can regulate your habits and make or unmake your health.

You alone can assimilate things mental and things material.

"APPROPRIATE THE BLESSINGS."

Said a Brooklyn preacher, offering his parishioners communion last Sunday: "I cannot give you the blessings and the benefits of this holy feast. You must appropriate them for yourselves. The banquet is spread, help yourself freely.

"You may be invited to a feast where the table is laden with the choicest foods; unless you appropriate and assimilate them, they can do you no good. So is it with this holy feast. You must appropriate its blessings. I cannot infuse them into you."

You have to do your own assimilation all through life.

You may be taught by a teacher, but you have to imbibe the knowledge. He cannot transfuse it into your brain.

You alone can control your mind cells and your brain cells.

ASSIMILATE WISDOM.

You may have spread before you the wisdom of the ages, but unless you assimilate it you derive no benefits from it; no one can force it into your cranium.

You alone can move your own legs.

You alone can use your own arms.

You alone can utilize your own hands.

You alone can control your own muscles.

You must stand on your feet, physically and metaphorically.

You must take your own steps.

Your parents cannot enter into your skin, take control of your neutral and physical machinery, and make something of you.

SON'S BATTLES HIS OWN.

You cannot fight your son's battles; that he must do for himself.

You have to be captain of your own destiny.

You have to see through your own eyes.

You have to use your own ears.

You have to master your own faculties.

You have to solve your own problems.

You have to form your own ideals.

You have to create your own ideals.

You must choose your own speech.

You must govern your own tongue.

Your real life is your thoughts.

Your thoughts are of your own making.

Your character is your own handiwork.

WHEAT RAISING IN VERMONT.

(From the Bennington Banner.)

It has been known for more than a century that Vermont soil would grow big crops of wheat but in recent years not a large amount of this grain has been produced in the State. In the pioneer days each farmer raised his own wheat which was ground at the village gristmill for family use. With the opening of the vast wheat lands in the west and the dairying in Vermont the raising of wheat in this State has been almost entirely abandoned. The success of John Squires of Bennington, who has just completed the harvesting and threshing of 250 bushels of wheat from four acres of land, will recall the days when every farm in the State had its wheat field and when the grain was a standard crop in the State. Some years ago the owner of a good water power at Jericho built a flour mill and endeavored to induce the farmers in that vicinity to go into wheat raising. He told them that they could obtain larger returns from their land per acre than the wheat farmers of the West and produced the statistics to prove his contention but he failed to make much of an impression. Most of the land in the West available for wheat is now under cultivation and with the steady increase in population the time is coming when the nation's bread basket must look for its filling to other sections of the country. With wheat selling at more than a dollar a bushel and little prospect that the price will again drop to that figure it would seem that there are openings in Vermont that have not yet been seriously considered.

VERMONT OPPORTUNITIES.

(From the St. Johnsbury Caledonian.)

Former Vermonters returning to their homes for a visit are constantly telling us that Vermont scenery is as fine as any in the world, that the State is much nearer the great markets than most agricultural States, and that Vermont soil can produce as much as any soil in the land. But it also develops that they were never told these things by their parents and friends before they left the State. On the contrary, they were allowed to go away with the idea that Vermont was seriously lacking the advantages to be found in other States. Lack of instruction about the real advantages of our State has been largely responsible for the great drain upon its young men and women. These facts impress one with the importance of the present residents correctly informing themselves about the advantages of Vermont compared with other places and then diligently teaching these facts to their children.

These former Vermonters who have been successful in other fields also gratuitously tell their former neighbors of ways of improving conditions for themselves and the State as a whole. This advice should also be given a respectful hearing because it comes from successful men who are free from selfish motives in offering their suggestions and oftentimes the following of their advice would be to our advantage. In this way they may to a limited extent repay some of the loss they caused Vermont by leaving it under a wrong impression.

If Vermonters will inform themselves on their advantages, teach this knowledge to the young and apply whatever practical advice comes to them from outside sources, the State will enjoy a new era of growth and development.

WHITE CLOVER.

(Dora Read Goodale: "All Round the Year Verses from "Skyfarm," by Elaine Goodale and Dora Read Goodale; G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1881.)

The distant hills, the long day through,
Have fainted in a haze of blue;
The sun has been a burning fire,
The day has been a warm desire,—
But all desire is over,
The lights are fading from the west,
The night has brought a dreamy rest,
And deep in yonder wood is heard
The sudden singing of a bird,—
While here an evening wind has stirred
A slope set thick with clover.

The fields have lost their lingering light,
The path is dusky through the night,—
The clover is too sweet to lose
Her fragrance with the gathering dews,—
The skies are warm above her;
The cricket pipes his song again,
The cows are waiting in the lane,
The shadows fall adown the hill,
And silent is the whippoorwill;
But through the summer twilight still
You smell the milk-white clover.

The glory o fthe day has ceased,
The moon has risen in the etsa,
The distant hills, the meadows near,
Are bather in moonlight soft and clear,
That veils the landscape over;
And born of rare and strange perfume,
Pure as the clover's odorous bloom,
Dear hopes that are but half confessed,
Dim thoughts and longings fill the breast,
Till lost again in deeper rest
Among the blossomed clover.

SOLDIER, REST!

(From the Lady of the Lake, Canto I.)

Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking;
Dream of battled fields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waking.
In our isle's enchanted hall,
Hands unseen thy couch are strewing,
Fairy strains of music fall
Every sense in slumber dewing.
Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Dream of fighting fields no more;
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking
Morn of toil, nor night of waking.

No rude sound shall reach thine ear,
Armor's clang, or war steed champing;
Trump nor pibroch summon here
Mustering clan or squadron tramping.
Yet the lark's shrill fife may come
At the daybreak from the fallow,
And the bittern sound his drum,
Booming from the sedgy shallow.
Ruder sounds shall none be near,
Guards nor warders challenge here,
Here's no war-steed's neigh and champing,
Shouting clans or squadrons stamping.

Huntsman, rest! thy chase is done;
While our slumbrous spells assail ye,
Dream not, with the rising sun,
Bugles here shall sound reveille.
Sleep! the deer is in his den;
Sleep! the hounds are by thee lying;
Sleep! nor dream in yonder glen
How thy gallant steed lay dying.
Huntsman, rest! thy chase is done;
Think not of the rising sun,
For at dawning to assail ye
Here no bugles sound reveille.

—Sir Walter Scott.

DOESN'T BELIEVE IN IT.

She—What are you thinking about?

He—I was speculating as to whether I dared kiss you.

She—I don't believe in speculation.—Exchange.

Vermont Notes

News of the State Gathered Here and There.

FINED $50 FOR SELLING LIQUOR.

Jeremiah Sheehan was fined $50 and costs at Ludlow Friday, having pleaded guilty to the charge of illegal selling of liquor.

WOMAN HURT AT PITTSFORD.

An automobile touring party bound from Montreal for their home in Connecticut went over a three-foot embankment in Pittsford Friday night in turning out for another car, and one member of the party, a woman, suffered two broken ribs. The four other occupants of the car were thrown out but escaped injury.

HARDWICK WOMAN HONORED.

Mrs. Alice White of Hardwick has been notified of her appointment by the executive committee and directors of the National Defense League as a delegate to the conference on national defense to be held at Washington in October under the auspices of the league.

ORGAN FOR MEAD CHAPEL.

Contracts have been signed for the erection of the organ for the Mead Memorial chapel which ex-Governor John A. Mead has presented to Middlebury College. The commission for the organ has been given to the Estey Organ company of Brattleboro. The organ will be of two manuals with electro-pneumatic action. The console will be located in the chancel opposite the organ. The organ will have a total of 21 speaking stops and 1,135 pipes.

FIND GIANT TURTLE.

Small boys playing on the banks of Stephens Branch in Barre discovered a giant turtle asleep on the rocks in the middle of the stream. With the aid of a crotched pole, the turtle-catchers were able to tow the reptile to the shore. A quarter-inch of moss on the big fellow's back spoke more eloquently than any birth certificate of his age. When arranged on a set of scales at a nearby grocery store, the member from Stephens branch tipped the beam at 25 pounds. Not in several months has a larger representative of the turtle species been caught in Barre, although several weeks ago H. S. Parker and E. F. Farrington captured a terrapin in Williamstown gulf that pushed the scale beam up to the 30-pound figure.

GETS ARMY POST.

Carl D. Hill, son of Mrs. Martha Hill of Portsmouth, N. H., and a graduate of Norwich University in 1914, has been appointed lieutenant in the United States army in the Philippines. He will sail from San Francisco September 11.

TO ATTEND FOREST CONFERENCE.

State Commissioner of Agriculture E. S. Brigham is to attend the annual meeting of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests at the Profile House September 1, 2 and 3. Thomas Bradlee and L. S. Merrill, directors of extension work in Vermont and Maine, will also attend.

STRUCK BY 800 POUND STONE.

James H. Cordiner of Barre, aged 67 years, a helper employed at the Barclay Brothers' granite plant, suffered a fracture of the lower right leg Aug. 16 when, while pushing a boxed stone weighing 800 pounds along the trestle used in carrying stone on the siding, the stone slipped and fell upon him. Fellow workmen rescued him.

SEVENTH VERMONT VETERANS.

A reunion of the veterans of the 7th Vermont will be held at Rutland Friday, September 17. The Rev. G. F. Brooks, drummer boy of Co. F, will give an address. The Woman's Relief Corps will serve supper.

RAT POISON CAN EXPLODED.

Mrs. Fred S. Bowen of Bethel was opening a can of rat poison the other day when an explosion occurred and some of the poison entered one of her eyes, causing partial blindness. The sight is not permanently injured.

LIMITS CATTLE EXHIBITS.

Andrew L. Felker, State commissioner of agriculture of New Hampshire, has announced that cattle from only three States, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, will be allowed at exhibition fairs in New Hampshire during the coming fall. The action is taken because of the recent epidemic of the foot and mouth disease.

RUTLAND ROAD REVENUES.

The operating revenue of the Rutland railroad for June was $300,197.74 and the operating expenses $214,206.38, leaving a net operating revenue of $85,991.36. For the six months ending June 30 the operating income was $329,568.13.

DEAN OF STATE PRINTERS.

Albert H. Cobb of Rutland enjoys the distinction of being the oldest active printer in the State of Vermont. He was born in Randolph in 1835 and has worked at the "case" for 65 years. He was foreman for the Rutland Daily Herald when it was established in 1861, remaining for two and a half years, and for 55 years he has been with the printing, binding and bookselling department of the company. He enjoys good health and does not intend to relinquish the "stick" and composing rule for a life of retirement.

NEW USE FOR ELECTRICITY.

(From the New York Herald.)

The illumination of sheep pens by electricity to encourage the animals to eat frequently and so fatten for market in record time is a novel scheme of Oregon ranchers, according to Samuel Galland, vice-president of the Spokane & Eastern trust company, who, with W. C. Sivyer and L. M. Simpson recently made an extensive automobile tour through the Deschutes and Wallowa valleys. They are interested in electric light and power companies at Deschutes Enterprise and Prineville.

"Among our best customers are the stock-raising regions of Oregon," says Mr. Galland. "The big ranches are using more electricity, both for light and power. They are using electricity for all purposes. We are furnishing them with power for pumping in the irrigation districts and for chopping grain in the winter where they raise stock. We visited some of the ranches of the Thomas W. Lawson and Dickson & McDowell of Boston. At the latter place we saw electricity put to novel use for winter feeding. The sheep pens are wired, and the light is turned on at four o'clock in the afternoon in winter and burns until 9 o'clock. The sheep feed all the time the light is on. It is turned on at 4 o'clock in the morning and the sheep again begin to feed. The frequent feeding brings them to the marketing stage quickly."